

MINUTES (DRAFT)

**Council on the Status of Women
United Way - Thomas Jefferson Area Office
806 East High Street, Charlottesville, VA
July 10, 2006**

Members Present

Marjorie Brahms-Signer
Paula Burnette
Ben Greenberg
Pat Gammon
Karen Raschke
Laura Mandala
Carol Burger
Helen Horton

Members Absent

Madge Bush (Chair)
Wendy Klein
Barbara Ridley-Monroe
Sharon McDonald
Susan Kellom
Marisa Rivera-Albert
Leni Gonzalez

Attending
Jane Brown, Director
Office of Community Partnerships
VA Department of Social Services

Call to Order

In the absence of Madge Bush, Council Chair, the meeting was called to order by Ben Greenberg at 10:00am

Minutes

Minutes were reviewed and approved.

Presentations

Council Mission and Goals

As scheduled for this meeting there was discussion around the goals and mission of the Council. In order to determine those issues currently most important to Virginia women, the Council members explored ways to gather useful data. The following actions were decided upon:

- There will be a survey of women in Virginia to obtain feedback on areas of concern to women identified by the Council at the May 19, 2006 meeting. The survey will also provide the women responding the opportunity to provide additional issues and priorities.
- Research will be planned and supervised by Council member Laura Mandala; a graduate student or students will be sought to collect and process the data. Ms. Mandala will create job descriptions for the graduate students.

- Outreach to Colleges and Universities to secure a graduate intern to assist with the project were assigned as follows:
 - VCU and University of Richmond, Jane Brown
 - Virginia Tech, Carol Burger and Helen Horton
 - University of Virginia, Ben Greenberg
 - George Mason, Mary Washington, William and Mary, Marjorie Signer
 - Radford, Helen Horton
- Research would begin no later than September 15, 2006, and be completed no later than September 15, 2007.

Community Collaboration Conferences

Jane Brown, Director, Office of Community Partnerships spoke to the Council about the upcoming Community Collaboration conferences to be held in the fall. She invited the Council to be a sponsoring partner for the conferences and to conduct break-out sessions or focus groups on women's issues.

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Ms. Mandala) and seconded (Mr. Greenberg) moved for the Council to participate as a partner with the Virginia Department of Social Services on the Community Collaboration Conferences.

Motion Carried with all in favor

Women's Health Virginia

Mimi Bender, Executive Director of Women's Health Virginia gave the Council a presentation on their work and organization. This organization is paving the way for better health for Virginia women and girls by providing leadership in education, research, prevention and other activities. It works with other groups and individuals and designs programs to complement and enhance their efforts. They are planning a series of focus groups with women of different ethnicities so that they can get a better understanding of issues that face all women.

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Ms. Mandala) and seconded (Ms. Gammon) moved to establish a working partnership with Women's Health Virginia.

Motion Carried with all in favor

Conflict of Interest training was conducted until adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Ann-marie Taranto